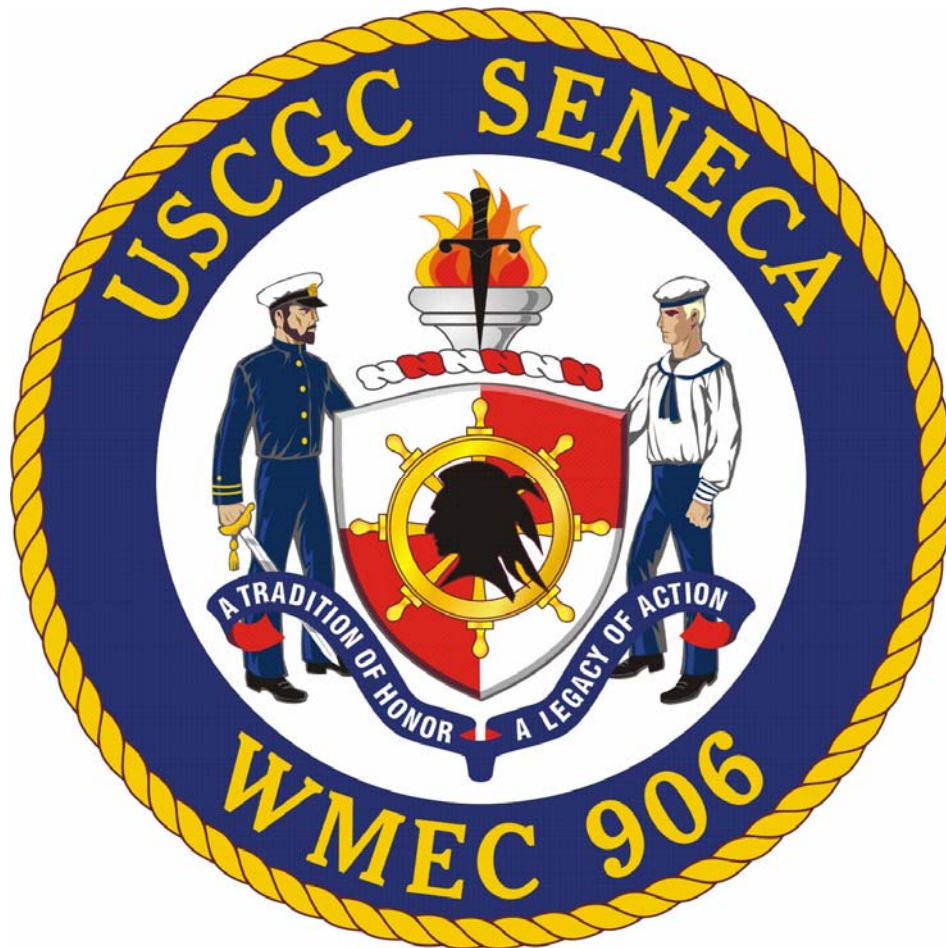


SENECA NEWSLETTER

Volume 2, Issue 1

July – August



Northern Patrol

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Hello friends and family of SENECA! We have just concluded a 32 day Northern Patrol and are excited to share our experiences with you! Our port calls included New York City, where we moored in the pouring rain, and Newport, Rhode Island, where SENECA's shipbuilders came on board to celebrate the 20th anniversary of



SENECA's shipbuilders from Derektor Shipyards, Newport, RI

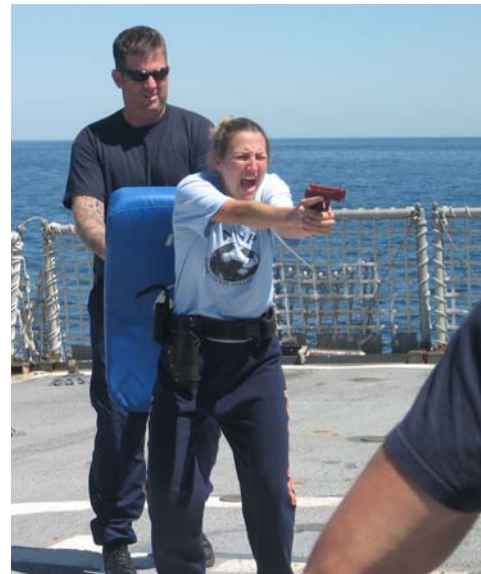
SENECA's commissioning. Despite the occasional long nights and sleep deprivation, the seas were calm, the coffee held out, and the crew put a remarkable effort into every evolution from anchoring to nacho night. On behalf of the crew of SENECA, we invite you to read on and see what we have been up to!

-ENS Hicks, Public Affairs Officer

Pepper Spray!

Coast Guard Boarding Officers and Boarding Team Members cannot administer pepper spray without first receiving proper law enforcement training and a full face exposure to OC pepper spray.

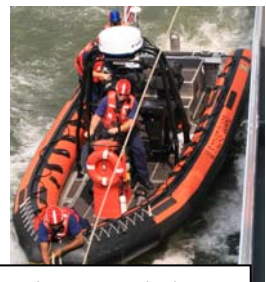
This Patrol, ENS Collier, BM3 Deranian, EM3 Williams, IT3 Whipkey, FN Carpenter, ET3 Daniel, ET3 Edmead, and SN Canavan (photo below) all survived exposure to pepper spray!



ENS Collier demonstrates how yelling forces her to breathe as she endures an experience described as "bobbing for french fries"



North Atlantic Right Whales



Above: The boat crew prepares to head out towards the fishing fleet

Left: In addition to spotting plenty of sharks and dolphins, SENECA logged over 25 whale sightings!

Morale!

"The California Lodge"

ENS Miller, ENS Collier, and ENS Robinson are all from California! ENS Collier's birthday seemed like the perfect opportunity to make this cake...



SN Lara-Nunez in the push up contest

Coast Guard Day!



FN Carpenter on "steel beach"

Pizza Night

BM3 Javier helping out on Deck
Department Pizza Night



ENS Robinson, AKA "DJ Cutter"



Hot Dog Eating Contest:

20 dogs per plate!
Grand winner:
MK3 Dzatlik!



"Rambo's Burgerpalooza"

GM2 Hammell: "I'm not eating tonight"

GM3 Cole: "but its Burgerpalooza night! You can't handle a Burgerpalooza burger?"

GM2: "Not true; I could eat SIX of those things!"

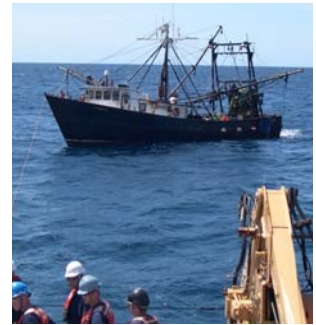
GM3: "Wanna bet?"

GM2 Hammell finished off 5.5 Fully-loaded Burgerpalooza burgers before folding at just under an hour. While he may have lost the bet with GM3, the crew agrees he put forth a valiant effort as he set the new SENECA Burgerpalooza record!



Operations

SENECA had a busy patrol carrying out Fisheries, Law Enforcement, and Search and Rescue Missions. Boarding teams conducted 21 boardings which included a catch seizure valued at \$50,000 from a fishing vessel with improper gear on board. SENECA also participated in 4 Search and Rescue evolutions, which included towing the disabled fishing vessel Leviathon and conducting search patterns for a man overboard.



Flight Ops

SENECA participated in two helicopter training evolutions. The first helped qualify new SENECA crewmembers in various flight quarters positions such as flight deck firefighting, helo tie downs, Landing Signal Officers (LSO), and Helicopter Control Officers (HCO). SENECA also helped qualify an LSO from CGC SPENCER.

SENECA's second helo evolution was vertical insertion training with the Maritime Security & Safety Team (MSST) Kings Bay. This training helped the team practice repelling onto a moving vessel. MSST members repelled from different heights onto the flight deck during both daylight and nighttime conditions.

Both helicopter evolutions involved night portions that led late into the evening. Great work to everyone that had a hand in making these evolutions successful!

Gun Shoot

SENECA conducted three gunnery exercises during this past patrol. The first two were .50 caliber machine gun shoots and the third was a 76mm shoot. The first .50 cal shoot was a destructive fire exercise. It was great practice for SENECA's gun crew and it also allowed other crewmembers a chance to become familiar with the weapons on board. Additionally, SENECA's four ship riders, LT Blackburn, LT Knoll, 1/c cadet Grunder and 1/c cadet Walton had a chance to sling a few rounds through the barrel. The second .50 cal shoot was for the mount crews to practice their warning shots and disabling fire. A barrel and smoke float were set out by the gunners who first "warned it" with shots across the bow before shooting out its engine with precision fire! At the end of the exercise, not even the rounds from a .50 cal machine gun could bring the barrel down so GM1 Hooper was brought in from the bullpen to finish the job with an M-16.





MK2 Fenton's advancement



Congratulations!

Recent Awards and Advancements:

HS2 Christopher Engstrom	Sea Duty
BM3 Jesse Rollinger	Letter of Commendation
FSC Daryl Jochimsen	Good Conduct Award
FS2 James Romboldi	Advancement
GM2 Christopher Hammell	Good Conduct Award
GM3 Paul Cole	Good Conduct Award
FN Matthew O'Holla	Advancement
FN Jessica Williamson	Advancement
MK2 Adam Fenton	Advancement
MK2 Daniel Huerta	Advancement
MK2 Adam Fenton	Good Conduct Award
BM3 Michelle Dunlap	DCPO of the Quarter
BM3 Jon Gielarowski	Advancement
SK2 Luis Rodriguez	Advancement
SN William Harvey	Letter of Appreciation



FS2 Romboldi



FN Williamson's advancement



"Down down all lines, up up all fish!"

FNMK Mackenzie and SNBM Gielarowski caught 3 blue fish at fish call.

Welcome! New Shipmates:

FA Vincent
 FN/MK Tyler Mackenzie
 SN Melinda Jones
 FN Jacob Carlson
 SN Adam Nesbitt
 SN Leon Sharp III

Doc's Corner

Hello once again from the sick bay! I am proud to say once again we have had no problems during this patrol. I would like to bring to your attention that there have been quite a few changes with Tricare, please check out <http://www.tricare.mil/mybenefit/> or <http://www.ha.osd.mil/> it is important that you are aware of all the changes that are going to affect your health care. Also, please pay attention to the news: there have been numerous food and toy recalls lately. If you have children or know someone with children it is important to keep them happy-but also safe. I would once again like to extend my hand out to you; should you have any questions or concerns about your health care or any medical questions in general please let me know. I can be reached best at cpengstrom@uscg.mil Thank you for the opportunity to take care of your loved ones!



ENS Hart relaying information during a gunnery drill



FS3 Pearce manning the sound powered phones as SENECA departed New York Harbor

Ombudsman's Corner

Greetings! My name is Dawn-Allen Bontrager, and I am here for spousal support when the ship is underway, and as a resource for new families attached to the SENECA. If I don't know the answer to your question, I can point you in the right direction. One of my other duties is to call all the families that are on the recall list when the ship pulls into port. So, please, let your Coastie know if you want to be included on my recall list.

There are many of you that I have not met. Please, call me and say hello so that I can extend a helping hand. I hope to organize a meet-and-greet for all the available spouses and their families. So, please make sure you're on the recall list, because that is my contact reference. Thanks for your continuing support of our crew. Below please find my contact information:

Contact Information:

Email: poohbontrager3@aol.com
Address: 31 Mordecai Lincoln Road
Scituate, MA 02066
Phone: Home (781) 545-6779
Cell (781) 864-4020





DC3 and Lucas Thomasson

Dependant's Cruise!

On August 23rd, SENECA was welcomed home by 130 guests waiting to spend time with the crew on the Dependants Cruise.

The entire crew contributed to a safe and enjoyable experience for their friends and family members. As SENECA

transited out of the Harbor, SN Neill graciously narrated a tour, pointing out everything from The Graves rock formations to the waste water plant on Deer Island. Throughout the day, there were also law enforcement, damage control, fire fighting, gumby suit, and heaving line toss demonstrations, in addition to tours of the bridge, an enjoyable lunch, and time to relax and visit with loved ones. The best part? Most would agree, it was mooring up one last time and heading home for the night!



DC1 and Alexandria Bontrager

Greetings from the Captain!

Well it was a fast patrol, 32 days away from homeport and it went by in what seemed like a blink of an eye! We did a lot in a patrol that was half as long as our normal patrols. As you read throughout the newsletter we also tried to have some fun and we made some memories throughout the deployment.

I hope everyone who made it on board for the Dependant's Cruise enjoyed themselves. It was a great day and I think we were underway just long enough to give everyone an appreciation of what your loved ones go through on a day to day basis ...and remember it was a beautiful day out there, imagine what it's like when it's sloppy weather! We appreciate everyone who shared the day with us and I thank the crew for extending their underway time just a little bit longer so we could have a great day with you.

Well we're getting ready for our next mission. We're headed to the Coast Guard Yard at the end of September to take the cutter into an extended maintenance period. It's moving day on board and folks are packaging up just about everything we own, plus all of our equipment, supplies, etc. Just imagine moving day at your house and multiply that by 10! We're finding more stuff we didn't know we had and stuff we thought for sure was lost is popping up in the most unusual places. After we drop the SENECA off in Baltimore the crew will have some well deserved down time before we get underway again in the TAHOMA. The TAHOMA is homeported in Kittery, Maine and we'll be underway for the better part of November and December. It will be tough being underway for the holidays, but hopefully we can mitigate the separation as much as possible.

We appreciate your continued support and we look forward to another safe patrol this Fall and Winter. We'll keep in touch and let you know how we're doing! Take care!!!

Commander Bill Kelly
Commanding Officer
USCGC SENECA (WMEC 906)
William.g.kelly@uscg.mil

